

Patent Claims:

5           1.     Apparatus for the introduction of gas into a liquid, especially for the aeration of water, and including an elastic hose or tube that is disposed upon a rigid profiled support member, whereby the tube has elastically expandable slits and whereby compressed air can escape into the water in the form of small bubbles, through the expanded slits, characterized in that the cross-section of the support tube (1, 21, 31) exhibits at least one recessed area (11, 23, 33).

10           2.     Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the recessed area (7, 23, 33) extends practically over the entire length of the profiled support member (1, 21, 31).

15           3.     Apparatus according to claim 1, whereby the apparatus is disposed at the base (7) of the container that contains the water that is to be aerated, or of the body of water that is to be aerated, characterized in that the recessed area (11) is disposed on the upper side (9) of the profiled support member (1).

20           4.     Apparatus according to claim 1, whereby the profiled support member (21) has a nearly circular cross-sectional configuration and whereby the tube (22) encases the profiled support member (21), characterized in that the recessed area (23) is disposed on the underside of the profiled support member (21).

5. Apparatus according to claim 1, whereby the profiled support member (31) has a circular or nearly circular cross-sectional configuration, and whereby the tube (32) encases the profiled support member (21), characterized in that the recessed areas (33) are disposed on the sides of the profiled support member (31).

6. Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, whereby the ends of the tube (22, 32) are secured via clamps to the support member (1,21,31), characterized in that on the longitudinal portion of the support member (1,21,31) upon which the clamps are disposed, fillers (24, 34) are placed into the recessed area (11, 23, 33) that restore the outer contour of the support member (1,21,31) to the shape that the support member had without recessed area.

7. Apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that the fillers (24,34) restore the outer contour of the support member (1,21,31) to a circular shape.

8. Apparatus according to claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the fillers (24,34) are made of rubber or a rubber-like material.

9. Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the tube, at least at one of its ends, is secured via clamps to the support member (1,21,31) and the support member (1,21,31) in this region has no recessed area (11,23,33) and the outer

perimeter of the support member (11,21,31) corresponds at least to the inner diameter of the tube (2,22,32).

10. Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the tube (2,22,32), in the region of its securement to the support member (11, 21,31) has no elastically expandable slits.

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